FIRST COMICS

APR. NO. 6
$1.25
$1.75 CANADA

DYNAMO JOE

©1987 FIRST COMICS, INC.

WHO ARE THESE GUYS, ANYWAY?

It is a new age, more than a thousand years hence, yet human nature has changed little. The forces and conditions that have bred wars in the centuries gone by now breed a different kind of war, a new breed of warrior. One of these new warriors is the robosoldier **Dynamo Joe**. This is his story.

Only three civilizations exist in our spiral of the galaxy, the greatest being the **Terran Confederation**, centered on Earth. The galaxy is shared with the cat-like **Tavitans**, with their home planet of Londree, and a benign master race, the **Imperium**, led by the enigmatic, immortal **Magna Khan**.

The two man crew of **Dynamo Joe** consists of:

1) **Sergeant Elanian Daro**: citizen of the Imperium.

2) **Private Pomru Purrrwakawaka**: a young Tavitan out to see the Universe. Pomru is an ardent fan of old Earth culture and mimics it whenever he can.

Ten years before the start of this story, the planets at the Galactic rim fell under attack by a bizarre extra-galactic enemy called the **Mellenares** -- millions of microscopic organ - isms linked together to form a single group consciousness, and possessing the ability to read minds. The foe moves at sub-light speeds, in an obsessive straight-line, devour - ing planets in its path. All attempts at communication have been frustrated; no envoys returned alive.

LAST ISSUE: Wolf 1 joins the forces of the Alliance. But the origins of this new super battlesuit and the full extent of its power are as mysterious as the enemy they fight.

Rick Obadiah, Publisher
Kathy Kotsivas, Operations Dir.
Kurt Goldzung, Sales Mgr.
Ralph Musicant, Finance Dir.

Rick Oliver, Editorial Director
Alex Wald, Art Director
Laurel Fitch, Ed. Coordinator
Rick Taylor, Production Mgr.

DYNAMO JOE™ Vol. 1, No. 6 April 1987. Published by FIRST COMICS, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 435 N. LaSalle, Chicago IL 60610. Published monthly. Copyright © 1986 First Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.25 in the U.S. Subscription rates for twelve issues: $15.00 in the U.S., $17.00 in Canada, and $32.00 foreign rate. All payments must be in U.S. funds. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, without satiric content are intended or should be inferred. Dynamo Joe, Daro, Pomru and all prominent characters featured in this issue are trademarks of First Comics, Inc. Looking for something? Printed in the U.S.A. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to **Dynamo Joe**, c/o First Comics, Inc., 435 N. LaSalle, Chicago IL 60610.

A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION

DYNAMO JOE™
UH... HELLO?

...OUT OF FUEL, BUT THE RADIO SHOULD STILL BE WORKING...
I'M DAMIEN KIRCHNER... OF EARTH. CAN YOU HEAR ME?
DO YOU FEEL MY FEAR... OR DO I FEEL YOURS?
I CAN FEEL YOU... INSIDE OF MY HEAD, BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU. HAVE ANY OF THE OTHER DREAMERS UNDERSTOOD WHAT IT IS YOU WANT?
DO EVEN YOU KNOW WHAT YOU NEED?
THERE GOES LIFE SUPPORT.
ANSWER ME DAMMIT! HELP ME HELP YOU WHILE I CAN!
DO YOU EVEN CARE THAT ANY OF US CAME?
WE—

THE ENEMY WITHIN
SIGMA BASE — FORTRESS OF THE ALLIANCE, A VAST MOBILE HARBOR. ITS THIRTY MILE-WIDE SUPERSTRUCTURE OF BONDED ASTEROIDS HOUSES FIVE MILLION TERRAN, TAVITAN AND IMPERIUM TROOPS.
CO-PLOTTERS & SCRIPT PHIL FOGLIO
PENCILS DOUG RICE
INKS BRIAN THOMAS
LETTERS KEN LOPEZ/DYNAKI
COLORS RICK TAYLOR
EDITS RICK OLIVER
LIKE ALL IMPERIUM SUBJECTS, SERGEANT ELANIAN DARO ENGAGES IN A DAILY WORKOUT. THE OTHER MEMBERS OF SPECTRE SQUADRON ARE "ENCOURAGED" TO DO LIKEWISE.
AS THE KHAN DIRECTS... FOCUS THE MIND... DIRECT THE WILL...
...OVER AND OUT!! NOT BAD ELANIAN, NOT BAD AT ALL. NEXT TIME WE TRY IT WITH EYES SHUT.
YOU SERGEANT DARO?
YES?
WELCOME TO SPECTRE SQUADRON, COLONEL.
COLONEL VAUTRAVERS REPORTIN' IN FOR DUTY, SIR..
WHY WAS I TOLD TO REPORT TO A GYM?
I LIKE TO SEE WHAT KIND OF SHAPE MY PEOPLE ARE IN, COLONEL, A LAZY MAN DOES SLOPPY WORK.

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE IMPERIUM, AIN'CHA? I HEARD YOU FOLKS THOUGHT YOU WAS TOUGH.
YOU KNOW LO TAI, SERGEANT?
I DO.
THEN LET'S SEE HOW TOUGH Y'ARE, SIR.
WHAT'S GOIN' ON, HAMMOND?
IT'S THE SARGE AND THE NEW GUY A FIGHT... I THINK.
SO WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL, DOLLY? NEITHER OF THEM HAS MOVED FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES.
LET ME EXPLAIN LO TAI TO YOU, SPORT.
I DO BELIEVE THAT LITTLE ELANIAN HAS FORGOTTON HOW TO MOVE. I THINK I'LL HELP HIM.
UH, BOLAN, THAT MIGHT NOT BE WISE...
"THE IDEA BEHIND LO TAI IS TO REMAIN PERFECTLY MOTIONLESS UNTIL YOU HAVE FOUND YOUR OPPONENT'S WEAK SPOT. YOU THEN EXECUTE ONE MOVEMENT, AND IN THAT ONE MOVE YOU MUST DEFEAT YOUR OPPONENT AND BLOCK HIS ATTACK. YOU HAVE TO KNOW WHAT YOUR OPPONENT IS GOING TO DO TWO STEPS BEFORE HE KNOWS.
DON'T WORRY, ASOF. DARO, KNOWS THAT IF HE TURNS TO ME, HIS LITTLE FRIEND WILL HIT HIM FROM BEHIND. I'M GIVING HIM A CHANCE TO LOSE HIS LITTLE FIGHT WITH DIGNITY. HAW HAW HAW!

KRAKAK!
SOMETIME WHEN WE'RE UNINTERRUPTED FOR A DAY OR TWO, I'D LIKE A REMATCH, SIR.
AGREED. UNTIL THEN, IT'LL BE AN HONOR TO WORK WITH YOU COLONEL.
IF THIS MEETING OF THE MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY IS QUITE FINISHED, SQUADRON LEADER, YOU CAN TELL YOUR PEOPLE THAT WE ARE MOVING OUT.
WHO'S THE CUTIE ?
TANAMARA AM I, SHAMEN AND WARRIOR OF THE CHEYENNE WOLVES AND CAPTAIN OF THE LEOPARD — AND YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER. FAILURE TO ADRESS ME AS SUCH IN THE FUTURE WILL REAULT IN YOU BEING FLAYED ALIVE AND FED TO THE ICE-WEASELS.
YOU'RE LUCKY YOU CAUGHT HER IN A GOOD MOOD.
DAMN! I LIKE HER ALREADY!

JOB'S FAT AS A FIDDLER, SARGE. EVEN TANAMARA COULDN'T MEGG HIM UP!
AHEM... PRIVATE...
RELAX, SARGE. I CHECKED MY MIKE, IT'S DEAD.
BUT MY EARS ARE NOT, PRIVATE.
GEEP!
BOO!
EEP!
I DIDN'T KNOW TAVITANS COULD CRY. MOST UNGEEMLY.
UMPH.
SPECTRE SQUAD, PREPARE FOR LIFT-OFF.
ATTENTION! ALL SPECTRE SQUADRON PERSONNEL ARE TO REPORT TO MAIN BAY. WE'RE MOVING OUT.
SERGEANT DARO, I WILL TRAVEL ABOARD DYNAMO JOE.
YES MA'AM. PRIVATE POHRU IS ALREADY ABOARD.

THE DYNAMO-CLASS ROBOGOLDIER MK II, EACH CARRYING A TWO-MAN CREW, IS THE BACKBONE OF THE ALLIANCE'S WAR EFFORT. VETERAN COMBAT UNITS ARE RARE IN THIS WAR AND AS SUCH, SPECTRE SQUADRON HAS BEEN ASSIGNED FRONT LINE DUTY ALONG THE KIRCHNER BELT.
WE WILL RENDEZVOUS WITH LEOPARD IN SECTOR 907T2
111
OUR NEW HOME!
DIBS ON THE CLEAN TOWELS!
NEWLY ASSIGNED TO THEIR UNIT IS THE MERCENARY BATTLESUIT WOLF I, PILOTED BY COLONEL VAUTRAVERS, AN OUTSIDER IN THE MOST EXTREME SENSE. HIS SUIT'S FIREPOWER IS EXCEEDED ONLY BY THE MYSTERY OF ITS ORIGINS... AND HIS.

HEY! LOOK OUT!
WOLF-1 YOU'RE GOIN THE WRONG WAY!
WELCOME ABOARD, SPECTRE SQUADRON. YOU ARE CLEARED FOR ENTRY INTO THE MAIN BAY.
WOLF-1, YOU ARE OUT OF FORMATION, PREPARE FOR BOARDING.
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, VAUTRAVERS?
DEATH

WHAT DID HE SAY?
"DEATH"
UH-OH...
WOLF-1! GET INTO FORMATION IMMEDIATELY! THIS IS A DIRECT ORDER!
DEATH!?
HEY!
SARGE!
BREEP BREEP!
A MELLANARES ATTACK!! IT'S COALESCING RIGHT NEXT TO SIGMA BASE!! SPECTRE SQUADRON, BATTLE FORMATION! CODE "RIPLO RED!

HOLY KOWABUNGA!
WHITE WOMAN PROTECT US!
BY THE KHAN!
IT'S HUGE!
"IT'S THEIR VERSION OF THE GALAX-C/ WOLF-1 MUST HAVE DETECTED IT BEFORE IT BEGAN TO FORM."
"SARGE! WE GOT A SWARM OF THE LITTLE ONES HEADING STRAIGHT TOWARDS US!"

PICK YOUR TARGETS AND FIRE AT WILL!
HEY SARGE...THAT BIG SUCKER IS JUST SITTING THERE. WHY ISN'T IT DOING ANY-THING?
IT MUST NOT BE READY YET! IT'S STILL FORM-ING! THE SUPPORT UNITS ARE TO KEEP US BUSY UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!
"THEY DIDN'T COUNT ON WOLF-1!"
HE DIDN'T DO ENOUGH DAMAGE! WE NEED SOMETHING BIGGER!
SIGMA SAGE, WHERE ARE YOU?!
SARGE: WOLF GOT 'EM... BUT IT AIN'T DIS-SOLVING. THEY ALWAYS DISSOLVE WHEN YOU DAMAGE 'EM!
THE DEFENSIVE BATTERIES OF SIGMA ARE CAUGHT UNAWARES...
...BUT WHAT THEY LACK IN ALERTNESS...

FIRST NOTES

Okay, I'll admit it. I'm confused. All right, I'm easily confused. But this one's really got me stumped. Let's see if you can shed a little light on the subject:

There is more comics material on the market today than ever before -- which is good; it's nice to have choices. According to one distributor (the people that get the comics from our printer to your local store), 376 titles are scheduled to come out this month, compared to 199 the same time last year, with much of this growth due to an incredible expansion of the black-and-white market -- which is also good; b&w comics have been treated like the bastard stepchild of color comics for far too long. They deserve some recog - nition. *Cerebus*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, and *Fish Police* come to mind. But that's not what puzzles me. What does? Hold on a second...

Oh yeah, that same distributor, Capital City, commented in their newsletter, *Internal Correspondence*, that "Many [comics] products that could not have reached the stands in the past are now being prominently sold as the next 'hot book.' This will inevitably produce a shake-out as consumers realize that there's a lot of comics out there that do not provide a good entertainment experience."

That last bit is the key. "Good entertainment." That's what we strive for in every book we publish. But throwing all professional courtesy out the window (actually, all I had to do was bash its fingers where it clung half-heartedly to the ledge), I have to say that I think a hefty chunk of this "hot" stuff is pure, unadulterated drek. It's not that it's tasteless, or vulgar, or crude. It's just bad. Worse than that, some of it is *intentionally* bad -- the apparent theory being the more inept the art and the more transparent the plagarism, the better the sales will be

So what am I confused about? It's coming up right on the other side of this colon. WHO'S BUYING ALL THIS STUFF? AND WHAT DO THEY DO WITH IT? Insulate their ceilings? Train puppies? They can't be reading it. Or looking at the pictures. Can they? Has there been heavy trading in pure drek on the Commodities Exchange recently? Should I contact my broker?

I feel a little foolish asking you to explain this to me. After all, I am supposed to be the *expert*. But my head hurts too much from thinking about it. I go home at night and have nightmares about hideously deformed rodents badly rendered by autistic quadraplegics, and next week it'll probably be the name of a new hit series from Frog Comics or Geewhiz Productions

And if I'm not having any fun at Christmas time, why should you? So I want you to write down your answers and send them to me no later than .. well, pretty gosh darn quick. Because if I'm going to cancel our whole line and get all our artists and writers to start cranking out lame imitations of bad parodies before the first of the new year, I've got a lot of serious brain damage to inflict in a very short period of time. You see, I figure if I make them all really stupid -- maybe throw in some motor function damage for the artists -- we can come out with the most pathetically awful books on the market

MANIACAL MONEY GRUBBING MOVIE MOGUL MELANCHOLY MARSUPIAL
IN-SANE IRRADIATED TEMPERED ILL-TEMPERED IRRESPONSIBLE IGUANAS
LET'S DO LUNCH, DAMMIT!
NUCLEAR-POWERED
BULIMIC BRAIN DEAD BILLIONAIRE BUZZARDS
FASCIST FLESH EATING FOUR EYED FORTUNE HUNTING
I'M PINK, I CRY

And we'll make millions. We'll start with that **Steve Rude** guy. He won the **Kirby Award** for best artist this year. He's way too good to be popular! Now where'd I put that ballpeen hammer?

-- Rick Oliver

FIRST IN DECEMBER

American Flagg! #39: Reuben Flagg quits the Plexus Rangers and hits the road. But someone else is trying to "hit" Reuben! By **J. Marc DeMatteis**, **Mark Badger** and **Randy Emberlin**. And Bob Violence by **Steven Grant** and **Joe Staton**. Cover by **Howard Chaykin**.

Badger #22: Who would possibly be crazy enough to ask the Badger to be their TV spokesman? Only two crazy appliance store owners, that's who! Stay tuned for "Range Wars," by **Mike Baron**, **Bill Reinhold** and **Chuck Beckum**. And Clonezone by Baron and **Mark A. Nelson**. Deluxe series.

Dynamo Joe #6: Wolf 1 goes into action against the enemy, while Sigma Base is attacked by an ominous "Enemy Within." By **Doug Rice**, **Phil Foglio**, and **Brian Thomas**. Plus Cargonauts, by Foglio, **Paul Guinan**, and **Sam Grainger**.

Elric: Weird of the White Wolf #4. Part two of **Michael Moorcock's** *The Singing Citadel*. By **Roy Thomas**, **Michael T. Gilbert** and **George Freeman**. Deluxe, bi-monthly series.

Ghostbusters #3: The Ghostbusters investigate "A Haunting Christmas." By **Hilarie Staton**, **Howard Bender**, and **Rick Burchett**. Based on Filmation's new animated cartoon show on the air in over 80% of the U.S. television markets

Grimjack #33: Gaunt has vowed to help Spook avenge her death in another dimension. But her uncontrollable lust for vengeance may kill Gnmjack, too! By **John Ostrander** and **Tom Mandrake**. And a special Munden's Bar Christmas tale by Ostrander, **William J. Norris**, and **Joe Staton**.

Jon Sable, Freelance #46: Creator/writer **Mike Grell** welcomes new **JSF** artist **Mike Manley** in a tale of love, betrayal, and murder, when Jon is asked to save a woman's husband caught in a hostage crisis. Part one of "The Tower." Deluxe series.

Nexus #31: Nexus' list leads him to the execution of a mass murderer, which inadvertently sparks a worldwide rebellion in which millions more may die. By **Mike Baron** and guest artist **Gerald Forton**. Plus Tales of Judah by Baron and **Bill Jaaska**. Deluxe series.

Shatter #8: He's a wanted man everywhere in the free world and the third world. So Shatter heads straight for... the Soviet Union. By **Peter B. Gillis**, **Paul Abrams**, and **Charlie Athanas**. Deluxe, bi-monthly series.

Whisper #6: Whisper exacts her final revenge against Eckart and his insidious computer network, and Alexis Devin is gone forever. So who is that wearing the Whisper costume? By **Steven Grant** and **Norm Breyfogle**. Bi-monthly.

Did you MISS last month's issue?

Too bad! We're probably sold out by now. Maybe you can borrow a friend's copy and find out what happened.

If you had a SUBSCRIPTION, you'd never miss a single issue!

If you had a SUBSCRIPTION, every issue would come directly to your house! You wouldn't have to go out or anything!

If you had a SUBSCRIPTION, there'd be something in your mailbox besides depressing bills!

Now, if only you had a SUBSCRIPTION COUPON you could fill out and send in. Wait! What's that down there?

ONLY $15 FOR 12 ISSUES!

- ☐ AMERICAN FLAGG!
- ☐ GRIMJACK
- ☐ WHISPER
- ☐ DYNAMO JOE

($17 in Canada, $32 foreign rate)

ONLY $21 FOR 12 ISSUES!

- ☐ BADGER
- ☐ CORUM
- ☐ DREADSTAR
- ☐ ELRIC
- ☐ EVANGELINE
- ☐ HAWKMOON
- ☐ NEXUS
- ☐ SABLE
- ☐ SHATTER

($23 in Canada, $40 foreign rate)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

Make checks payable to: FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING
435 N LASALLE
CHICAGO, IL 60610

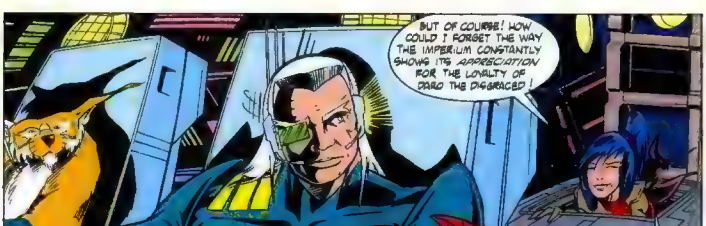
FIRST COMICS

All payments in U.S. funds. Offer expires June 30, 1987

TM & © 1987 FIRST COMICS, INC.

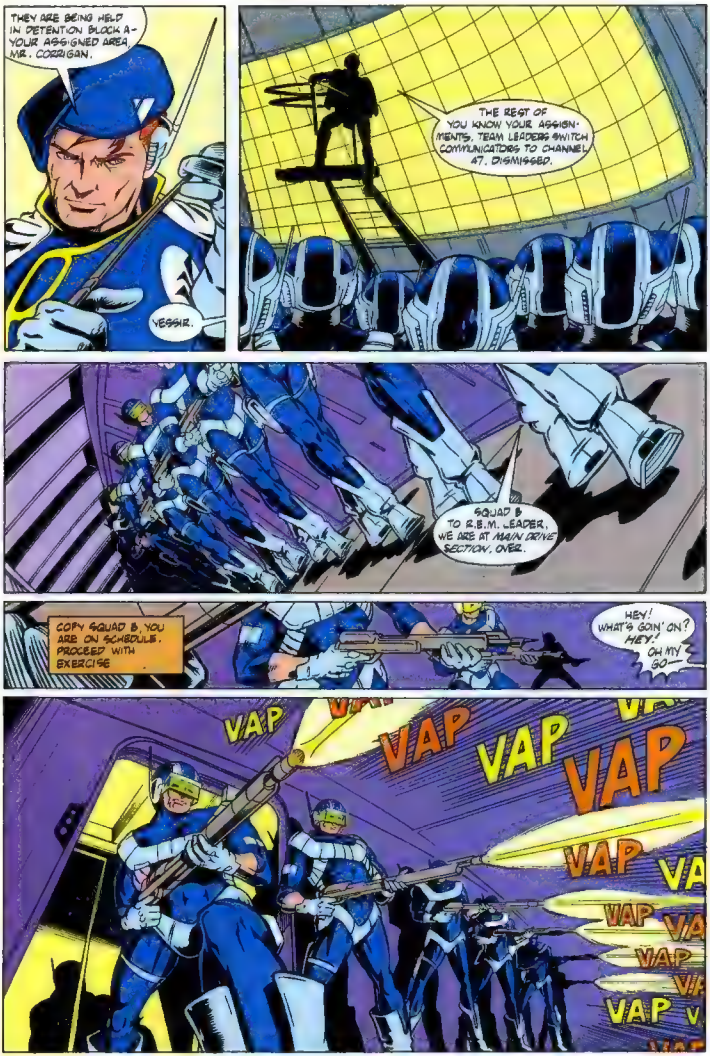
..THEY MAKE UP FOR IN EFFECT.
THE COLOSSAL ENTITY GIVES OFF AN ALMOST AUDIBLE BURST OF FRUSTRATION AND PAIN, AND BEGINS TO COLLAPSE BACK INTO NOTHINGNESS.
YOU KILLED IT!
NO!
IT...
SHOULD HAVE BEEN...
MINE!
THAT WAS MY KILL, DARO. HOW DARE YOU INTERFERE!!!
PERHAPS YOU DIDN'T NOTICE, COLONEL... BUT THAT THING WAS ALMOST ONE THIRD THE SIZE OF SIGMA BASE. ENTHUSIASM AGAIN, YOU ARE JUST ONE GUY!

I COULD'VE HANDLED IT. DON'T EVER UNDERESTIMATE WOLF-1, SERGEANT.
I WON'T — BUT I WON'T UNNECESSARILY GAMBLE WITH THE LIVES OF FIVE MILLION PEOPLE EITHER. NOW GET BACK INTO FORMATION!
THAT ONE HAS A WARRIOR'S SOUL — BUT NO BRAINS.
BEG TO DISAGREE, MA'AM, BUT YOU SHOULD'A SEEN THE READINGS I WUZ GETTIN' OFF HIS SUIT. SARGE WE PROBABLY COULD HAVE HANDLED THAT SCHNABBACRABBER ALL BY HIS LONESOME!
INDEED. WELL, I CAME ABOARD TO GET YOUR ASSESSMENTS OF THIS VAULTRAVERS, BUT I THINK I'VE SEEN ENOUGH.
YAFF!
THE MACHINE IS MAGNIFICENT. BUT THE MAN IS FLAWED. WE MUST ASK OURSELVES," IS THE MAN TRULY INDISPENSIBLE?"
ENTERING LEOPARD DOCKING BAY. PREPARE FOR ARRIVAL.
TRY TO KEEP IN MIND THE FACT THAT THE COLONEL IS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO OPERATE WOLF-1, AND HE INTENDS TO KEEP IT THAT WAY. THE ALLIANCE WILL HAVE TO TAKE WHAT IT CAN GET.
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THE ALLIANCE? THERE ARE PLACES WHERE A MAN IN THAT SUIT COULD BE A KING ... OR A KHAN
YOU MEAN THE SLAVERS, THE BLOOD NATION.
SAID NO SUCH THING.
I OWE MY ALLEGIANCE TO THE KHAN AND THE IMPERIUM.


BUT OF COURSE! HOW COULD I FORGET THE WAY THE IMPERIUM CONSTANTLY SHOWS ITS APPRECIATION FOR THE LOYALTY OF DARO THE DISGRACED!
HEH HEH

HEH HEH HEH HEH

ABOARD SIGMA BASE
AT BASE. OUR SUBJECT TODAY IS THE HOPEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE "DREAMER" PROBLEM. UP TO NOW THEY'VE CONSISTED OF CIVILIANS WHO'VE FOUND THEMSELVES COMPELLED TO SEEK OUT CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY.
ESPIONAGE WAS INITIALLY SUSPECTED.
BUT MEDICAL REPORTS SHOWED NO TRACE OF HELLANARE'S INFECTION. INTERROGATION REVEALED THAT THE DREAMERS THEMSELVES KNEW NO REASON FOR THEIR ACTIONS EXCEPT THAT "THEY HAD TO." THE BRASS DID NOT REGARD THIS AS SUFFICIENT JUSTIFICATION FOR THEIR ACTIONS, AND BLOCKED ALL ATTEMPTS AT CONTACT.
DAMIEN KIRCHNER WAS THE FIRST DREAMER FROM WITHIN SIGMA BASE AND EVER SINCE HIS THEFT OF A HELLION, SECURITY HAS BEEN AIRTIGHT. ALL SUBSEQUENT ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN NEUTRALIZED AND THE DREAMERS CAPTURED.


THEY ARE BEING HELD IN DETENTION BLOCK A- YOUR ASSIGNED AREA MR. CORRIGAN.
YESSIR.
THE REST OF YOU KNOW YOUR ASSIGNMENTS, TEAM LEADERS SWITCH COMMUNICATORS TO CHANNEL 47. DISMISSED.
SQUAD B TO R.B.M. LEADER, WE ARE AT MAIN DRIVE SECTION, OVER.
COPY SQUAD B, YOU ARE ON SCHEDULE. PROCEED WITH EXERCISE
HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON? HEY! OH MY GO—
VAP
VAP
VAP
VAP
VAP
VAP

GENERAL RESOLUTION! A SQUAD OF SECURITY TROOPS HAVE MUTINIED AND TAKEN OVER SECTOR D. THEY FIRED ON CONTROL ROOM PERSONNEL WITHOUT WARNING AND HAVE BARRICADED THEMSELVES WITHIN.
CASUALTIES?
AT LEAST 350 DEAD, AND WE ARE BEGINNING TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF HEAVY FIGHTING IN DETENTION BLOCK A AND THE SECTOR D BARRICADE.
SO, THE ENEMY DOES NOT KILL GOOD MEN FAST ENOUGH FOR YOU, CAPTAIN. YOU MUST SLAUGHTER MORE?
I DEEPLY REGRET THEIR DEATHS, SIR - BUT SECURING THAT SECTOR QUICKLY HAD FIRST PRIORITY.
CAPTAIN? SQUAD A REPORTS THAT DETENTION BLOCK A HAS BEEN LIBERATED.
...BERATED... YOU ARE DREAMERS!! BUT WHY... YOU DID NOT TAKE THE TRANSPORT BAYS. YOU CANNOT ESCAPE! ALL OF THIS DEATH HAS BEEN FOR NOTHING!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, SIR — WE DON'T HAVE TO ESCAPE. WE CONTROL THE MAIN DRIVE SECTION. IT IS BEING POWERED UP EVEN AS WE SPEAK, AND WHEN IT IS READY FOR WARP, WE WILL GO WHERE WE MUST GO...
"...AND SIGMA 6/12 WILL COME WITH US."
NEXT MONTH: THE SIGMA SYNDROME

PORT AUTHORITY
A TYPICAL DAY ON THE PLANET CRADLE, LOCATED IN THE OUTER COMMONWEALTH.
WELL, CAP, I'LL TELL YA - MR. DELAGANDRO'S HAD SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT DEGS EGGS HE ORDERED. HE THINKS 20,000 CREDITS IS A BIT STEEP.
WHAT?! BUT THAT IS THE PRICE WE AGREED UPON!
YEAH, WELL NOW HE SAYS HE MIGHT BE ABLE T'LETCHA HAVE 9000.
'COURSE THAT'S GO DING AFTER DELIVERY- BUT YOU AIN'T GOT ANY PROBLEM W.TH THAT, DO YA?
CALL YOUR LOADING CREW BACK, OR I'LL LOAD THEM MYSELF IF I HAVE TO. I CAN SELL THESE EGGS ANYWHERE AND DO BETTER THAN THAT.
FORGET IT CHUMP...
STAR OF MI
WHUMP
THOSE EGGS ARE IN MR. DELAGANDRO'S WAREHOUSE BY NOW AND THAT'S WHERE THEY STAY. YOU DON'T LIKE IT - GO TALK TO HIM.
HAW HAW HAW!
CLAYTON
CAP'N, ARE YOU...
I'M FINE BUT I NEED A DRINK NOW.

THE FIRST CHOICE
KEEPS GETTING BETTER!

AMERICAN FLAGG!
BADGER
CORUM
DREADSTAR
DYNAMO JOE
ELRIC
GHOSTBUSTERS
GRIMJACK
HAWKMOON
JON SABLE, FREELANCE
NEXUS
SHATTER
WHISPER

COMING SOON: EVANGELINE

GRAPHIC NOVELS

AMERICAN FLAGG!: HARD TIMES
BEOWULF
ELRIC OF MELNIBONÉ
THE ENCHANTED APPLES OF OZ
THE SECRET ISLAND OF OZ
THE ORIGINAL NEXUS
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES
TIME BEAVERS
TIME ²

Count On It!

FIRST® COMICS
COUNT ON US.

American Flagg! and Time ² are trademarks of First Comics, Inc. and Howard Chaykin, Inc. Dreadstar is a trademark of Jim Starlin licensed exclusively to First Comics, Inc. Ghostbusters is a trademark of Filmation. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles is a trademark of Mirage Studios. Corum, Elric and Hawkmoon are trademarks of Michael Moorcock. All else trademark First Comics, Inc.

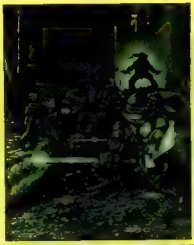
A NOVEL CHRISTMAS GIFT
A FIRST GRAPHIC NOVEL

THE SECRET ISLAND OF OZ
FULL-COLOR. 48 PAGES. $7.95

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES
FULL-COLOR. 128 PAGES. $9.95

TIME ²
FULL-COLOR. 48 PAGES. $7.95

AND DON'T FORGET
THESE OTHER GREAT GIFTS!



TMNT FULL-COLOR POSTER
PAINTED BY KEVIN EASTMAN
22" X 28" $3.95

1987 OLIVIA EXOTICA CALENDAR
13 FULL-COLOR PAINTINGS. $9.95
LIMITED QUANTITIES STILL AVAILABLE!

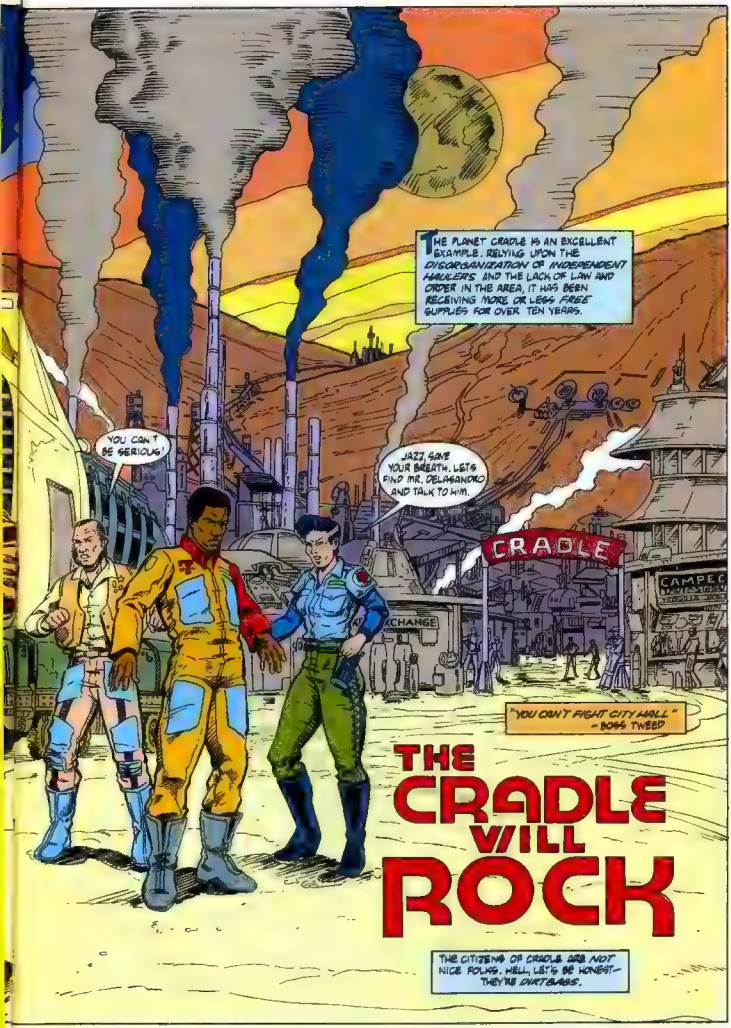
PLUS:

AMERICAN FLAGG!: 96 Pages. $11.95
BEOWULF: 48 Pages. $5.95
ELRIC OF MELNIBONE: 176 Pages. $14.95
ENCHANTED APPLES OF OZ: 48 Pages. $7.95
ORIGINAL NEXUS: 104 Pages. $6.95
TIME BEAVERS: 48 Pages. $5.95

FIRST COMICS
COUNT ON US.

© 1988 FIRST COMICS, INC. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles © 1986 Mirage Studios.

CARGONAUTS
PARADOS AWAY, THE ORION WAR RAGES. HERE, FAR FROM THE CORRIDOR, LIFE GOES ON, BUT, WITH THE MILITARY FORCES OF TERRA OCCUPIED FOR THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE, AND CONSEQUENTLY UNABLE TO ENFORCE ANY SEMBLANCE OF LAW ON THE FRONTIER PLANETS, THINGS HAVE BEGUN TO GO DOWNHILL.
OH YEAH - YOU'LL BE GETTIN' A BILL FOR USE OF THE PORT FACILITIES, FAILURE TO PAY'LL RESULT IN THE CONFIGURATION OF YER SHIP. HAVE A NICE DAY.
CO-PLOTTERS
WRITER - PAUL ROOLIO PENCILLER - PAUL GULBRAN
INKER - SAM GRAINGER LETTERER - ASH HOLUBOWSKI
COLORIST - RICK TAYLOR OBSERVER - RICK OLIVER


THE PLANET CRADLE IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE. RELYING UPON THE DISORGANIZATION OF INDEPENDENT HAULERS AND THE LACK OF LAW AND ORDER IN THE AREA, IT HAS BEEN RECEIVING MORE OR LESS FREE SUPPLIES FOR OVER TEN YEARS.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
JAZZ, SAVE YOUR BREATH. LET'S FIND MR. DELAGANOKO AND TALK TO HIM.
CRADLE
CHANGE
"YOU CAN'T FIGHT CITY HALL" - BOSS TWEED
THE CRADLE WILL ROCK
THE CITIZENS OF CRADLE ARE NOT NICE FOLKS. WELL, LET'S BE HONEST - THEY'RE DIRTBAGS.

WELL, THAT SETTLES IT. WE NEED AN EXPERT TO HANDLE CARGO DEALS. WE BARELY KNOW ENOUGH TO KEEP FROM GETTING BURNED WHEN THE PEOPLE ARE HONEST. THIS ONE IS GONNA HURT.
WE GOT ENOUGH TO COVER THOSE "PORT FEES?"
PROBABLY NOT.
OLAVARRIA BAR
HOW NICE. I ALWAYS WANTED TO LEARN HOW TO RUN AN ORE SLEDGE
I DON'T GIVE UP THAT EASILY.
WHO ASKED HIM TO GIVE UP? DID YOU ASK HIM TO GIVE UP?
WHAT? ARE YOU CRAZY?
YESSIR?
EVERCLEAR. WITH A TWIST.
ANYTHING ELSE?
YEAH DO YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND MR. DELAGANDRO?
SEVEN SISTERS
RIGHT OVER THERE BUT HE'S BUSY AT THE MOMENT.
I'LL WAIT.

BANANA DAQUARI, SO WHO'S THE LADY?
"SOMEBODY MR. DELAGANO DON'T GOT BUSINESS WITH, AND THAT'S ALL YOU GOTTA KNOW TO KEEP HEALTHY."
DAMMIT DELAGANO, YOU'VE BEEN JERKING ME AROUND ALL WEEK. WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU REALLY WANT?!
WELL NOW...
WE CAN START WITH OUR FACES HAVING A GOOD TIME AND THEN WORK OUR WAY DOWN. EH?
HANDS OFF CREEP! I STICK TO MY OWN SPECIES!
WAK
STUPID STUPID STUPID. I WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT AFTER A WEEK HERE YOU WOULD HAVE TWIGGED TO THE FACT THAT I OWN THIS WORLD AND EVERYTHING ON IT.
WHICH, AS OF NOW, INCLUDES YOU. YOU GUYS CAN HAVE HER WHEN I'M DONE.
YOU'RE THEY CAN WAIT A WHOLE TWO MINUTES?
LAUGH WHILE YOU CAN, M'DEAR.
IT'S NOT OUR PROBLEM... WE DON'T NEED TROUBLE... DON'T GET INVOLVED.
UNDERSTAND?

SIGH.
WAP!
CHOK!
HEY!
AK!
HEY WEY-HEY GUYS! LET'S SEE IF SHE'S AS TOUGH ON THE INSIDE AS SHE IS ON THE OUTSIDE!
SNAP!
AK!
LET'S NOT.

EVENING MA'AM, WE WERE JUST PASSING BY AND THOUGHT WE'D DO A LITTLE FREE LANCE MAIDEN RESCUING. KNOW WHERE WE CAN FIND SOME WORK?
THANKS, UM, YOU DON'T MIND IF I ASK A PERSONAL QUESTION DO YOU?
SURE AS?
DO YOU FOLKS HAVE A DEATH WISH OR SOMETHING?
WELL ACTUALLY, SIR... ♫ MUCH AS WE'D LIKE TO STAY AND PLAY... ♫
THE LITTLE LADY'S GOT A POINT, STRANGERS. NOW I'M A FORGIVING MAN SO YOU JUST HAND HER OVER AND MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS AND I'LL LET THE BOYS GO EASY ON YOU.
THE LAST TIME HE USED THAT LINE I HADDA PICK UP THE GUY WITH A MOP.
KLISHH!
♫ I THINK WE'D RATHER RUN AWAY! ♫
A SONG OF MY PEOPLE.

WELL LOOK AT THAT. 'BOUT TIME OLLIE HAD A BACK DOOR PUT IN
YOU'D BETTER COME ON BACK TO OUR SHIP.
?! THEY'RE NOT FOLLOWING!
MAYBE THEY KNOW A SHORTCUT! DON'T SLOW DOWN!
OH NO! DON'T TELL ME THAT DERELICT IS YOUR SHIP
IT LOOKS A LOT WORSE THAN IT IS - HONEST!
ODD... THEY REALLY WEREN'T FOLLOWING US.
THIS REALLY IS A NICE LOOKING SHIP... WHO ARE YOU ?
I'M F.D. RUSSEL, CO-PILOT.
YOU'RE ON THE STAR OF MILWAUKEE. I'M JAZZ STEWART, NAVIGATOR.
I'M STEVIE FRANCIS. I WORK FOR MY DAD. HE'S THE REASON I'M ON THIS PESTHOLE.
I'M IN GREAT PAIN FROM A SPRAINED ELBOW.
HUM?
THAT'S CAPTAIN MAX CLANTON. HOW ABOUT YOURSELF ?

"DELAGANDRO HAD HEARD OF MY FATHER AND HAD ASKED HIM HERE TO CRADLE TO DISCUSS A TRADING AGREEMENT.
"IT TURNED OUT THAT CRADLE'S BAD REPUTATION WAS BEGINNING TO SPREAD, AND IT WAS GETTING HARDER AND HARDER FOR THEM TO GET SUPPLIES.
"DAD THOUGHT THAT THEY WANTED HIS ADVICE ON HOW TO CLEAN UP THEIR ACT.
PORT AUTHORITY
"BUT WHAT THEY REALLY WANTED WAS JUST HIS GOOD NAME AND REPUTATION TO RE-ESTABLISH THEIR CREDIT AND KEEP CRADLE GOING FOR ANOTHER TEN YEARS.
"DAD REFUSED.
"MR. DELAGANDRO SAID HE'D GIVE DAD SOME TIME TO THINK IT OVER...
"LIKE TWENTY YEARS.
OLAVARRIA BAR
"SO I CAME TO CRADLE TO NEGOTIATE HIS RELEASE. YOU SAW THE RESULTS OF THAT."

WHO IS YOUR FATHER?
CALUMET SMITH
OH NO!
CALUMET SMITH!!
BY NOW THEY MUST KNOW WHO HE IS.
CRADLE
EXCHANGE
CAMPECHE!
I TOLD YOU WE DIDN'T HAVE TO CHOOSE THEM. THE GIRL WILL TALK THEM INTO BREAKING OUT HER OLD MAN AND THEN WE'LL HAVE THEM ALL OUT IN THE OPEN— OUT OF THEIR SHIP AND OUT OF LUCK.
NEXT...
BREAKIN OUT IS HARD TO DO!

Dear Tabby

C/O FIRST COMICS
435 N. LASALLE
CHICAGO IL 60610

Dear Tabby:

Dynamo Joe is, among other things, a war comic. Unfortunately, war also exists in the real world, and it is evil. A real world war may be more or less necessary or justified, but no war has pitted "good guys" against "bad guys." War is people killing other people and being killed by still other people. We may see our war adversaries first as strangers and later as murderers; but each of them was once somebody's Larry.

But we continue to choose this evil. How is it possible? It helps to regard the enemy as less than human. We can more easily kill a "dirty, stinking commie" than a real person.

the same goes for the Mellenares war machine. Since the Orion War enemy has only a single consciousness, our heroes can kill tens of thousands of the enemy without a twinge of conscience. The central moral issue of war does not exist in Dynamo Joe, at least not so far.

Every work of art sends messages about the subject it treats. Dynamo Joe tells us that war can pit people against things. This message makes war more palatable and, to that degree, more likely.

If Dynamo Joe's story continues, we may someday learn what makes the Mellenares tick. On that day, I hope, the Orion War will be revealed as a tragedy rather than as a dangerous game.

Bertrand Rice
6633 N. Sheridan
Chicago, IL 60626

We will, indeed, someday learn "what makes the Mellenares tick," and you should stick around to see what happens then. I don't think you'll be disappointed.

Dear Doug, etc.:

To sum it all up in a neutron shell, Dynamo Joe is great, fantastic, spectacular, marvelous, and... you know what I mean. Where to begin? It all started when I spotted an ad for Frist Adventures. I sawDynamo Joe and thought, "Hey, who's that? He looks pretty darn cool. He's got that Jap Anime style." Anyway, I hunted down a First Adventures #1. Boy, the DJ installment was, on a scale of 1 to 10, a 12. I never could find the Mars issues to catch up, though. I was astonished to see a Dynamo Joe three issue limited series. I snatched it up faster than a Schnabcrabber can blossom. Ha Ha! Yes, you guys should continue the DJ saga.

Now for some comments. First of all, your art is the only type of its kind. It's too good to describe. It's renaissance. In Frist Adventures #1, I liked Pomru's APS (armored power suit). In First Adventures #4, I liked the Corregidor's battlesuits; they remind me of those from Mobile Suit Gundam. I especially like Pomru, out of everyone else. I loved the first page of the DJ limited series.

Now for some criticism: Bring back DJ's old design, make him different from the others. He deserves it. You could put a little more shadow on the characters' faces, a little more shading to give everything that Japanese style, and more robot combat. I really love massive, detailed giant robot battles. Doesn't everyone?

Steve Cumbee
134 Cheyene Trail
Wilmington, NC

Dear Tabby:

I think DJ definitely needs his smile back, because it gave him character. As for the Galax-Cs. something should happen, good or bad, to them so they don't make the Dynamo suits obsolete. Otherwise you'll have to call the comic book "Galax-C."

Mark MacVicar
6402 Park Ave.
Garden Grove, CA 92645

Dear Tabby:

There are so many things I like about DJ I hardly know where to begin. As an historian I like the portrayal of the tensions between each member of the alliance, and within each group as well. Very realistic. As a wargamer and reader of military SF, I enjoy the depiction of a space war and the beings who are fighting it. As an SF reader, I find the alien Mellenares interesting, and the Khan and his Imperium fascinating. (But how can the Khan be the only human to have mastered immortality? Surely what one can do, others can, too.) And as a comics reader, I like the artwork presented in the comic,though I am rather put off by the extreme muscularity of almost all the humans in the series. It might have been better to have given the Imperial "supermen" the muscles and leave the "mongrel" Confederation humans more normal and varied.

Scott M. Rusch
520 S. 42nd St.
Apt. B-8
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Hey Doug:

Although the Dynamo Joe Special had but seven new pages and a stunning cover I

went ahead and purchased it anyway.

Elvis Orten
Route #4, Box 120
Dawson Springs, KY 42408

Dear Doug and company:

I'm not exactly a long-time Dynamo Joe fan, but I really enjoy Joe's appearances, and for a while he was the only First Comics character I read about That may be about to change.

Grimjack #30 was your basic comic book yarn, with nice raging battles, funny heroes, heroic heroes, and mysterious plots. Pomru's as funny as ever, and Daro's as blasted duty-bound as ever. Grimjack, on the other hand, is better than I gave him credit for. He always looked to be some crazy mercenary who was about as interesting as Rambo. Well, scratch that thought. I never knew Grimjack was an alternate universe comic. I'll have to give it a try.

I've always liked the idea of giant robot warriors, and the Mellenares add another dimension to the story, one that should be explored in the near future.

Speaking of the near future, I'd like to congratulate all involved on Joe getting his own series. Phil Foglio is one of my favorite writers and near-favorite artists, and DJ should give him a chance to exercise his seriousness.

So, welcome Phil Foglio and good luck. As for John Ostrander, it's been fun, and I think I just may give Grimjack a try.

Mike Rawdon
25 Annawan Rd.
Newton, MA 02168

Dear Mr. Rice:

I am happy you are releasing Dynamo Joe as a regular series, being an avid fan of all the earlier episodes. Dynamo Joe has a lot of action along with interesting characters and plots, and I'm really happy that I'll be able to read the series once every month. However, besides offering all the Dynamo Joe workers my heartfelt congratulations, there are a number of questions I need to ask, and comments I need to make:

1) Let's see some appearances by Grimjack. Explain how long he was involved in the Orion War and where and when he met Daro and Pomru.

2) Show more of all the characters presently in the book.

3) Do more development of the Mellenares. Why are they attacking the Alliance? Also, rather than constructing their machines out of raw materials, the Mellenares put themselves together and form war machines, right?

4) Explain more about the Magna Khan's plans. Why is he sending only the dregs of his fleet to help?

5) Let's see more about Tannemara and her loyalties, and more about the Blood Nations.

David B. Mitchell
151 Alvarado Rd.
Berkeley, CA 94705

*1) See the special **Dynamo Joe** crossover in **Grimjack** #30 for some answers. Wait patiently for others.*

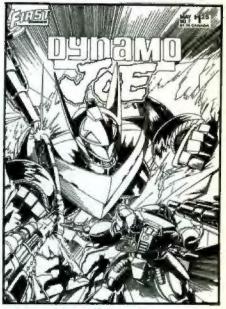
2) Okay.

3) Every issue reveals more and more.

3A) Right.

4) You'll find out.

5) You bet. More on the way.

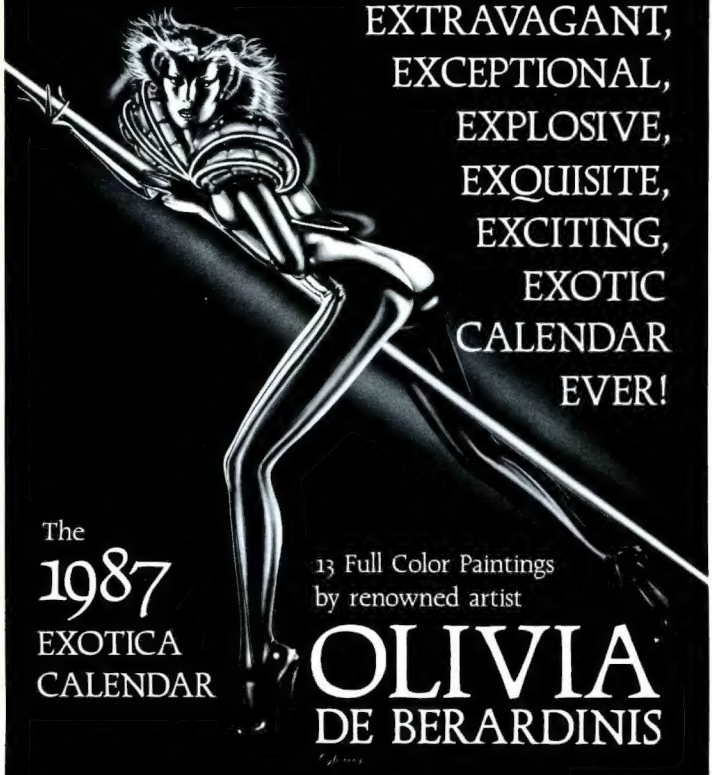


NEXT MONTH: Sigma Base has been captured and there's only one option left -- blow it up! But Daro, Pomru, and Dynamo Joe have another idea... By **Phil Foglio, Doug Rice** and **Brian Thomas**. And Cargonauts by Foglio and **Paul Guinan.**

-- Rick Oliver

First Comics presents

THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY, EXTRAVAGANT, EXCEPTIONAL, EXPLOSIVE, EXQUISITE, EXCITING, EXOTIC CALENDAR EVER!



The 1987 EXOTICA CALENDAR

13 Full Color Paintings by renowned artist

OLIVIA DE BERARDINIS

ON SALE NOW!

Designed by FRANK MILLER

A First Comics Publishing Production

© 1986 FIRST COMICS, INC.

EVANGELINE

She has friends in VERY high places...

...and this time NOTHING can stop her!

Count On It!

The all new adventures of EVANGELINE coming in January from FIRST COMICS

COUNT ON US.